

From: Moore, Camlin <CamlinMoore@gov.sc.gov>
To:
Date: 12/5/2016 8:29:52 AM
Subject: SC Front Pages – Monday, December 5, 2016

SC Front Pages – Mon day, December 5, 2016



BOWL BOUND

No. 2 Clemson to play No. 3 Ohio State in Fiesta Bowl 1B

USC heads to the Birmingham Bowl to face South Florida 1B



MONDAY DECEMBER 5 2016

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TODAY: CLOUDY; RAIN CHANCE 33% 56° LO 50° YESTERDAY: HI 50° LO 45° PRECIP. (as of 5 p.m.) 0.01" FORECAST, 2A

The State

WEST COLUMBIA

Expand water plant, study says

West Columbia should double the size of its water plant on Lake Murray, a study says. But rate increases to pay for the expansion would be an issue.

BY TIM FLACH
tflach@thestate.com

West Columbia needs to double the size of its water plant on Lake Murray to keep pace with

growth expected in central Lexington County by 2040, a study says.

The county will become home to 190,000 people over the next 25 years, compared to 90,000 today, the report from engineering consultant Black and Veatch Co. said.

City leaders sought the company's advice to prepare for the expected expansion of the system's 5-year-old water plant to

the maximum output it was designed to supply. The upgrades, estimated to cost \$62.6 million, would allow the plant to pump 48 million gallons a day, up from a maximum of 22.5 million gallons daily now.

The report doesn't mention the expansion's impact on water bills. But municipal water improvements often are financed in part with customer rate hikes. Lexington, Oak Grove, Red

Bank, Gilbert, Pelion and Swansea get their water from West Columbia.

The price of the package is four times what City Hall spends on utility services yearly. And it's five times the cost of building the plant that initially produced up to 6 million gallons daily.

Black and Veatch's recommendations suggest "what we're looking at over the hill," Mayor

Bobby Horton said.

Still, the company said work needs to start soon on the first part of the package of improvements. Work would occur in three stages.

But the communities affected want time to review the plans.

Officials at the county's Joint Municipal Water and Sewer Commission want to size up the

SEE WATER, 7A



PALMETTO VOICES RACIAL PERCEPTION VS. REALITY

Emerson Smith writes about how the perception of race skews our thinking and could be warping our medical research. 1C



LOCAL
'HE WAS ALWAYS HUMBLE'
Benedict College basketball player killed in hit-and-run accident, 3A

“

YOU HAVE TO HAVE BODIES IN SEATS IN ORDER FOR STUDENTS TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THE INSTRUCTIONAL PROGRAM.

Toni Kelly Campbell, Richland 1 attendance coordinator



Logan Elementary instructional assistant Jackie Holmes greets students who have arrived before 7:30 a.m. to have breakfast before starting their school day.

School stresses the 'perfect'

The Post and Courier

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Monday, December 5, 2016

POSTANDCOURIER.COM

Charleston, S.C. \$1.00

Can Slager jury deadlock be broken?

As many eyes watch milestone S.C. case, determined panel tries to sway lone holdout

BY ANDREW KNAPP and BRENDA RINDGE
aknapp@postandcourier.com
brindge@postandcourier.com

They have worried about the money they were making on jury duty. They have fretted over losing health insurance

after being away from their jobs for so long. They have missed trips. They have had car wrecks and family emergencies. For five weeks, they have visited the downtown Charleston courthouse almost every workday. And when they had the chance, the jurors trying to decide a former police officer's future

Inside
Key developments. A4

in the wake of Walter Scott's shooting death could have easily given up. They did not. Despite signaling the panel was deadlocked — unable to reach a verdict in former patrolman Michael Slager's murder trial because one member had "issues" and refused to agree on a guilty finding — the jury foreman said they wanted to press on. It

was a stunning, bewildering about-face for many who watched.

What exactly is motivating the jurors is guesswork, experts said. But it's clear that many feel a duty to mold the fitting conclusion they think the case deserves. People like Scott family attorney Chris Stewart think they sense the importance of their mission. In a way, Stewart said, their determination channels Scott himself.

"Today, he did all of his speaking," Chris Stewart said Friday of Scott, the

50-year-old black man shot in the back as he ran away from a confrontation with Slager. "All of this deliberation — all of the back and forth, never giving up by the jury, trying to find justice — was Walter Scott speaking, his voice reminding us that we will get justice in this."

How long the jury will last is likely to be answered early this week when its members indicate any progress — or an unbreakable deadlock.

Please see **SLAGER**, Page A4

Merry and bright

Charleston's holiday spirit comes to life with tree lighting, parade



PHOTOGRAPHS BY GRACE BEAHM/STAFF

Tapley Baxter and her daughter, Campbell Baxter, 3 (above), enjoy the colorful display Sunday evening after the Charleston Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony on Marion Square. Tiasha Grant (left) leads majorettes from Burke High School on Sunday during the annual Charleston Holiday Parade. For more photos, go to postandcourier.com/multimedia

Trump plan worries S.C. immigrant students

Undocumented children could lose their protections

BY DEANNA PAN
dpan@postandcourier.com

All year, Diana Pliego made excuses. When her high school friends asked about her post-grad plans, Pliego said she wasn't sure, she was still looking at colleges, she couldn't afford tuition.

Her last excuse was true. Her father painted houses. Her mother sold natural products for a multilevel marketing company. And Pliego wasn't eligible for public scholarships, grants or financial aid.

What her friends didn't know is that Pliego is undocumented. She was 3 years old when her family crossed the border into the United States illegally from Mexico in the midst of one of the worst financial crises in the country's history. But for Pliego, South Carolina is home.

She was an A/B student at her Greenville-area high school, enrolled in Advanced Placement and International Baccalaureate courses. Her teachers would read her papers out loud to her class. When a guidance counselor confronted Pliego about why she wasn't applying to college, Pliego broke down in tears.

South Carolina is one of two states that expressly forbids undocumented immigrants from attending public colleges. In all but 20 states, undocumented immigrants can go to public universities, but they don't qualify for in-state tuition. Noncitizens are also ineligible for federal financial aid.

Pliego considered enrolling in cosmetology school, but to practice, she'd need a professional license. As an unauthorized immigrant, she wasn't eligible for that, either.

Her luck began to change the summer after she graduated from high school.

Please see **TRUMP**, Page A9

Matthew devoured over half of S.C. coast's dunes

U.S. Geological, Army Corps studies to aid in

rose as high as 9 feet in spots. "The beach erosion certainly was prevalent," said Joseph Long.

Inside



Corps denies N. Dakota pipeline easement in victory for Sioux tribe

State's leaders criticize decision, say it adds to 'dangerous situation'

"prolongs the dangerous situation" of having several hundred protesters who are camped out on federal land during cold, wintry weather. U.S. Rep. Kevin Cramer said it's a "very



SPORTS, 1C
**USC TO
FACE USF**



LOCAL, 3A
**Ring found
52 years
after loss**

The Greenville News PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

MONDAY,
DECEMBER 5, 2016
GREENVILLEONLINE.COM

USA TODAY ARMY TO EXPLORE ALTERNATE ROUTE FOR PIPELINE **PAGE 1B**

Roof asks for defense team, in part

Requests reinstatement of attorneys for trial phase

TONYA MAXWELL
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CHARLESTON - The man accused of killing nine people at a Charleston church has in part reversed course on an earlier decision to represent himself at his death penalty trial, asking the judge to reinstate defense attorneys in the initial phase of trial.

"I would like to ask if my lawyers can represent me for the guilt phase of the trial only," Dylann Roof wrote in a mo-

tion filed early Sunday afternoon. "Can you let me have them back for the guilt phase, and then let me represent myself for the sentencing phase of the trial? If you would allow that, then that is what I would like to do."

The one-page document, addressed to U.S. District Court Judge Richard Gergel, is handwritten on notebook paper by Roof.

Roof, 22, faces 33 federal charges stemming from the June 2015 shooting at Emanuel African Methodist Episcopal Church that left nine black parishioners dead in a Wednesday night Bible study. Officials later confirmed a four-page manifesto posted online before the at-

tack — one detailing racist ideas against African Americans and other groups — was authored by Roof.

Last week, before the questioning of prospective jurors began, Roof asked Gergel if he could represent himself, a motion the judge criticized as "strategically unwise," but allowed after determining the defendant was competent to make that decision.

Throughout the week of jury questioning, Gergel has repeatedly rebuked Roof's former defense attorneys, now in the role of standby counsel, for addressing the court both verbally and in filed

See ROOF, Page 4A



Dylann Roof faces 33 federal charges related to nine deaths in the June 2015 shootings.

College Football Playoff

CLEMSON FACES OSU IN SEMIFINAL



Champs honored ... sort of
Conference crown earns Tigers home jerseys against Buckeyes. Page 1C

BART BOATWRIGHT/STAFF

Clemson head coach Dabo Swinney thanks the Clemson fans after the Tigers' 42-35 win over Virginia Tech in the ACC Championship at Clemson Memorial Stadium in Clemson, S.C., on Saturday.

Anderson police say Brown case might grow

Might mean suspects in addition to Kohlhepp

NIKIE MAYO
NIKIE.MAYO@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Anderson Police Chief Jim Stewart said Sunday night that his department is investigating "other alleged criminal activity" that may be connected to the disappearance of Kala Brown and the death of her boyfriend, Charles David Carver.

In an interview, Stewart gave that as his reason that the Anderson Police Department is withholding from public view copies of multiple search warrants his agency sought while investigating the couple's disappearance.

Stewart declined to say what other potential criminal activity the department is investigating in this case, but said it could involve someone other than Todd Kohlhepp, who has been charged with kidnapping Brown and with killing Carver.

"Those search warrants reveal names and information belonging to witnesses in this case, and may reveal identities of suspects who don't even know we are on them yet," Stewart said. "At this point, we cannot put them out there."

Stewart did say the search warrants would show that his agency sought the cellphone records of Kohlhepp "pretty early on" as Anderson officers investigated what happened to Brown and Carver.

"We knew from witnesses and from her good friends that Ms. Brown worked for Mr. Kohlhepp, so we knew that could have been her last point of contact," Stewart said.

Brown and Carver shared a place at Anderson Crossing Apartments before they disappeared in late August. On Nov. 3, Spartanburg County deputies were on property that Kohlhepp owns near Woodruff when they heard banging. They found Brown alive, chained inside a metal container. Carver's body was found on the same property and was positively identified days later.

Stewart said his department is working with the Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office and the South Carolina State

TIGERS PREVAIL

Get respite from brutal schedule with win against Coppin St. **1B**



ONLINE

Visit orangeandwhite.com for coverage of Clemson sports



Independent Mail

MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016

PART OF THE USA TODAY NETWORK

INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

Tigers going back to desert

Ohio State will be opponent in Fiesta Bowl semifinal

BRAD SENKIW
BRAD.SENKIW@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

ORLANDO - Dabo Swinney doesn't have a great memory of Clemson's last trip to the desert.

The Tigers didn't spend much time in Glendale, Arizona, before last year's national championship game, so it was a "blur" to Clemson's head coach.

He'll get a shot this year to become

Online

For more Clemson football coverage, go to orangeandwhite.com

more "engrained in the community" because the Tigers are heading back to the greater Phoenix area to once again play for high stakes.

The Tigers (12-1), winners of the ACC, checked in at No. 2 in the College Football Playoff ranking on Sunday and will take on Ohio State (11-1) on Dec. 31 at 7 p.m. in the Fiesta Bowl semifinal at the same site of the Tigers' loss to Alabama last year.

"I definitely think it was tougher the

second time," said Swinney, who made the playoff for the second consecutive season. "When you haven't done something there's a different mindset than when you have and you come back the next year and there's a lot of expectations and stuff like that. This team did a great job of staying focused week to week."

The No. 1 Crimson Tide, which held the top spot every week, will take on No. 4 Washington in the other semifinal. They'll meet in the Peach Bowl at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

The Tigers face an Urban Meyer squad out West that they beat 40-35 in the

See **TIGERS**, Page 4A



CLERMONT, S.C. (USA TODAY NETWORK) - Clemson coach Dabo Swinney will take his team to Arizona for a second straight year after the Tigers won the ACC title Saturday.



Members of the Westside High School JROTC unit march Sunday in the Anderson Christmas Parade.

PHOTOS BY KIRK BROWN@INDEPENDENT MAIL

Police probe new angle in Brown case

Media request for access to search warrants denied

NIKIE MAYO
NIKIE.MAYO@INDEPENDENTMAIL.COM

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RAIN DAMPENS CHRISTMAS PARADE

Sparse crowd attends longstanding Anderson event

KIRK BROWN
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USC GOING TO BIRMINGHAM BOWL

SPORTS, B1



CLEMSON EARNS NO. 2 PLAYOFF SEED

SPORTS, B1

Herald-Journal

SPARTANBURG, SOUTH CAROLINA

Monday, December 5, 2016



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TODAY TUE WED



57°/47° 52°/42° 58°/41°

Complete forecast, A10

LOCAL

Town Hall on Tuesday

The Herald-Journal will host a town hall panel discussion on affordable housing in the city of Spartanburg at 7 p.m. Tuesday at the newspaper's downtown office on West Main Street.

The panelists: Terril Bates, Spartanburg Housing Authority executive director; Martin Livingston, neighborhood services director for the city of Spartanburg; Tammie Hoy Hawkins, project manager with the Northside Development Group; Hannah Jarrett, community impact associate with United Way of the Piedmont; and the Rev. Keith McDaniel, pastor of Macedonia Missionary Baptist Church.

The event is free and open to everyone. It should last about 90 minutes.

STATE

Authorities say substitute teacher taped boys to chairs

LEXINGTON — A South Carolina teacher is facing criminal charges after taping two middle school students to their classroom chairs.

Lexington County Sheriff Jay Koon says substitute teacher Janeen Suzette Clark of Irmo faces two counts of cruelty to children after restraining the students at Sandhills Middle School in Gaston. Clark had no listed telephone number and could not be reached for comment Sunday.

Investigators say the 26-year-old Clark taped two male students to their desk chairs and bound their hands with tape during the school day on Thursday. Authorities say Clark put tape over the mouth of one of the students and allowed another student to tape the second victim to a chair.

—From wire reports

CALIFORNIA WAREHOUSE FIRE

Death toll hits 33 in inferno

By Kristin J. Bender and Brian Melley
The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — The death toll from a fire that tore through a warehouse hosting a late-night dance party climbed to 33 on Sunday as firefighters painstakingly combed through rubble for others believed to still be missing and made the grim announcement that teenagers were among the dead.

The building that went up in flames was known as the "Ghost Ship," had been carved into artist studios and was an illegal home for a rotating cast of a dozen or more people, according to former denizens who said it was a cluttered death trap with few exits, piles of wood and a mess of snaking electric cords.

"If you were going there for a

SEE INFERNO, A4



Well-wishers walk to place flowers at the scene in the aftermath of a warehouse fire Sunday in Oakland, Calif. MARCIO JOSE SANCHEZ/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

CHIROPRACTIC STUDIES

Sherman College getting ready for growth

Master plan to revamp 3 buildings, build new student center

By Zach Fox
zach.fox@shj.com

With enrollment projected to double in the next decade, Sherman College of Chiropractic is preparing for the future.

The college recently partnered with program management firm Brailsford and Dunlavey to develop a plan to build a new student life center and renovate the three buildings currently on campus.

Sherman officials said the plan is expected to cost around \$16 million and will help the college prepare for a larger student body.

"Given the significant enrollment growth we have seen over the past five years, and given the anticipated growth in the chiropractic profession nationally in the coming years, we expect that interest from prospective Sherman College students will continue to grow in the future," said Sherman President Edwin Cordero.



ABOVE: First-quarter students Lexie Bell, left, and Teena Rowe, right, with sixth-quarter student Rogelio Fernandez, center, practice adjustment setups in a class at Sherman College of Chiropractic in Spartanburg on Friday.



LEFT: Enrollment at Sherman Col-

SPORTS

Clemson, OSU
pair off in college
football playoffs 1B



EDUCATION

Fort Mill shifts
middle school
attendance lines 3A

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MONDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2016

\$1.00

Chance of rain
56°/45° See 8A

The Herald

LOCAL

Lake
Wylie a
picture of
lingering
drought

BY JOHN MARKS
jmarks@laherally.com

LAKE WYLIE

Rain finally came. Just not enough to make a difference. "Even though we've had some recent widespread rainfall across the state," said Leonard Vaughan with the National Weather Service in Columbia, "it's not enough to improve the drought conditions that currently exist."

Almost half an inch of rain fell on Lake Wylie as November turned to December, ending a dry spell dating back to early October when Hurricane Matthew brought showers here and flooding elsewhere in the state. Drought conditions have caused low lake levels, boat ramp closings and calls for voluntary water conservation, as well as burn bans to wildfires elsewhere.

York County remains in moderate drought, the second of four drought stages. Residents are asked to conserve water and energy.

The three westernmost counties in South Carolina are in severe drought, followed by 16 counties, including York at moderate, and 14 at incipient drought. There are 13 northeast counties not in drought.

In North Carolina, Gaston County is in severe drought and Mecklenburg in moderate, according to North Carolina Drought Management Advisory Council. The group's website ncdrought.org, lists 19 of 100 counties in a drought stage.

Parts of South Carolina that were under water two months ago are now in drought. The South Carolina Drought Response Committee on Thursday announced 11 low state counties — including some on the Coast — are in the first drought stage.

SEE DROUGHT, 4A

HOLIDAYS

Christmasville wraps up on chilly, gray note



Twins Tycho and Hayden Rocky, 4, sit with Santa as Christmasville wraps up Sunday.

PHOTOS BY JEFF SOCHKO

After a successful Saturday with sunshine, mild temperatures and hundreds of visitors, Rock Hill's annual downtown Christmasville festival closed with a rainy, chilly Sunday. The weather was bad enough that the town of Clover canceled its 46th annual Christmas parade that had been scheduled for 3 p.m. There is no word yet about when that event will be rescheduled. But Christmasville still offered skating, Ferris wheel rides, caroling and other events. And a number of hearty souls ventured out to get into the Christmas spirit despite the rain and cold temperatures.

— STAFF REPORTS



Elizabeth Baker, 3, takes a ride on the merry go round with her dad on the last day of Christmasville in downtown Rock Hill.

ROCK HILL

Boat garage serves as Santa's workshop at Christmas

BY ANDREW DYSS
adyss@heraldonline.com

ROCK HILL

Bill Gregory is a lot skinnier than Santa Claus. And his wife, Terry, is far younger than Mrs. Claus.

But they are the Christmas couple in the flesh. They even

have a couple of elves.

The work bays at Gregory's Marine & RV in Rock Hill, which through most of the year are filled with boats for service, will be turned into Santa's workshop through Christmas. For more than a decade, the shop is where hundreds, maybe thousands, of toys have been assembled for kids who might not

get a Christmas gift without them.

"We just love being able to help children who might not have a Christmas," Terry Gregory said.

Bill Gregory, who has run the business for decades, said the community has always been

SEE WORKSHOP, 3A

USCA WINS REGION TITLE

Pacers overcome two-set deficit to advance to Elite Eight, 1B



Aiken Standard

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75¢

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Roof asks for lawyers back for guilt phase of trial



AP PHOTO/CHUCK BURTON

Dyllann Roof has asked U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel to allow him to have his lawyers represent him during the guilt phase of the trial.

Defendant wants to represent himself during the sentencing phase

BY MEG KINNARD
Associated Press

COLUMBIA — The white man charged with the shooting deaths of nine black parishioners at a South Carolina church asked a judge on Sunday if he could have his defense team back, at least temporarily.

In a handwritten request, Dyllann Roof asked U.S. District Judge Richard Gergel to bring his defense team back on board for the guilt phase of his federal death penalty trial, which begins this week in Charleston.

"I would like to ask if my lawyers can represent me for the guilt phase of the trial only," Roof wrote. "Can you let me

have them back for the guilt phase, and then let me represent myself for the sentencing phase of the trial? If you would allow that, then that is what I would like to do."

Death penalty cases are split into two parts: the guilt phase, and then a separate portion that focuses on whether or not the defendant will be sentenced to death or life in prison.

Roof, 22, faces dozens of federal charges, including hate crimes and obstruction of the practice of religion, for the June 2015 slayings at the end of a Bible study at Emanuel AME Church. Police said he hurled racial slurs during the shooting and left three people alive so they could tell the world the

killings were because he hated black people.

The request comes a week after a federal judge allowed Roof to represent himself, a request that came as court convened last week to begin the process of qualifying a jury pool to hear Roof's case. Gergel, who had found Roof competent to stand trial a week earlier, said Roof had the constitutional right to act as his own attorney, a decision the judge called "very unwise."

Roof's former defense team has remained his legal advisers but has sought to play a larger role in his defense, expressing concern last week

Please see **ROOF**, Page 10A.

Residents should beware of fake charities

BY TRIPP GIRARDEAU
tgirardeau@aikenstandard.com

Many get into the spirit of giving during the holiday season, but residents are being encouraged to do some research this year to ensure their hard-earned money only goes to legitimate charities.

The South Carolina Department of Consumer Affairs and the South Carolina Secretary of State's Office have offered up some tips to help keep residents' charitable donations out of the hands of criminals.

Juliana Harris, communication director with the S.C. Department of Consumer Affairs, said residents should seek out a charity that needs their support but to be cautious of groups.

Donating to well-known charities is one way for residents to know exactly where their money is going.

Harris said to watch out for charities that have sprung up overnight, as they may mean well but lack the infrastructure to provide assistance.

Please see **CHARITIES**, Page 10A.

Area deaths

Eunice "Mamaw" Lowe, Aiken
Katlyn Angelos, Aiken
James Dwight "Jim" West, Sr., Wagram
Danny M. Hartley, Salley
Rutha Mae Lincoln, Aiken
Andre Dush, Aiken
Dica B. Kerr, Jackson
Otto Sommer McCary, Aiken

Deaths and Funerals, 4A

Weather

Twin talent

Aiken toddlers film USA Network pilot with Jessica Biel

BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND
ccleveland@aikenstandard.com

A rainy evening and 2-year-old twins Jackson and Connor Viola scurry into their grandmother's home in Aiken.

In matching gray and white striped shirts, jeans and brown shoes, the two smile at each other, play while bouncing from chair to chair and head right to their toys when allowed.

"They're very lively. They're busy boys and as sweet as can be," their mother Melissa said, describing them. "I know I'm bias, because I'm their mom but they're really cute and they're identical."

The two also have similar personalities and only a birth mark to differentiate them, Melissa said.

It was the Viola twins duplicate looks and personalities that helped them recently land a role playing alongside actress Jessica Biel in the USA Network pilot "The Sinner."

Biel, commonly known for her TV role in "7th Heaven," is starring in and executive producing the drama, which entertainment websites have described as a "crime thriller." Of the drama, the IMDb website states, "a young mother tries to find out what's causing her to have violent tendencies."

"The Sinner" is based on a book written by Petra Hammesfahr, which also has the same name.

The Viola twins filmed with Biel



STAFF PHOTO BY CHRISTINA CLEVELAND

Two-year-old twins Jackson and Connor Viola hang out at their grandmother's home in Aiken. The two portrayed actress Jessica Biel's son in the USA Network pilot "The Sinner." Biel is most commonly known for her TV role on "7th Heaven."

experience their mother has called a "whirlwind."

Only a few months ago, a friend emailed Melissa and her husband, Mike, who also live in Aiken, about a casting call she saw on Facebook. The call was looking for twin boys under 4 with dark hair, dark eyes and complexion.

"She sent it to us because she knew we had twin boys that kind of fit that

And so, on a whim, that very next morning, a Thursday morning, Melissa remembers, she decided she'd email them. The family was up early that morning with the boys and Melissa decided to send a few pictures. By the time she headed to work that day, she said her email "had blown up."

Casting loved the pictures and said the boys fit the bill, Melissa recalls

sional shots — just candid of their two sweet boys smiling. The Violas were then sent a page of the script to work with the boys and send back. "It was just kind of a whirlwind," Melissa said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that they would pick our kids."

At the time, the family only knew the casting call was for the TV project



Morning News

MONDAY DECEMBER 5, 2016

TODAY'S WEATHER

Cloudy and warmer.
High 63, low 48.
DETAILS 2A

www.scnw.com

The Voice of the Pee Dee

75 cents

Santa Claus waves before leading the Toy Run Parade on Sunday from the Florence Civic Center to the East Carolina Fairgrounds.



PHOTOS BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON/MORNING NEWS

Hundreds of bikers participate in Lion Club's Toy Run Parade

BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON
Morning News
mrobertson@scnw.com

FLORENCE — The weather outside Sunday was less than ideal, and it put a damper on turnout for the Pee Dee's 33rd Toy Run Parade, sponsored by the Lion's Club.

The annual event traditionally is one of the larger rides through Florence and is the club's biggest fundraiser to pay for vision services for children in the Florence area.

The annual ride, traditionally led by

Santa Claus on a "Hog," left the Florence Civic Center down David McLeod Boulevard to Palmetto Street and then went out to the Eastern Carolina Fairgrounds on East Palmetto Street.

The ride in 2015 had more than 600 riders in it, but this year fewer riders braved the cold and mist to follow Santa along the route.

Others, though, skipped the ride and headed straight for the fairgrounds, where their \$20 donation or a toy of similar value got them lunch and access to an auction that also helped raise money for the club's program.

College football Clemson will meet Ohio State in playoffs

From staff reports

CLEMSON — A year after finishing No. 2 in the nation, Clemson is the No. 2 seed in the College Football Playoffs.

And the Tigers are returning to the scene where their 2015 season came to a disappointing end.

Clemson (12-1) will meet third-seeded Ohio State (11-1) on Dec. 31 in the Fiesta Bowl in Glendale, Arizona. The Buckeyes opened Sunday as a three-point favorite.

The winner will play for the national championship against the winner of the other semifinal game, which will match top-seeded Alabama (13-0) against fourth-seeded Washington (12-1).

That semifinal game will be the Peach Bowl on Dec. 31 in Atlanta.

The potential for a national championship game remains.

PLAYOFF SEMIFINALS

► **FIESTA BOWL:** No. 2 Clemson (12-1) vs. No. 3 Ohio State (11-1), 7 p.m. EST Dec. 31, Glendale, Arizona.

► **PEACH BOWL:** No. 1 Alabama (13-0) vs. No. 4 Washington (12-1), 3 p.m. EST Dec. 31, Atlanta.

► **MORE:** See Sports, Page 1C.

at Glendale.

Clemson was rated No. 3 in the playoff rankings going into the weekend, but moved up after defeating Virginia Tech 42-35 on Saturday night in Orlando, Florida. That victory gave the Tigers their second consecutive Atlantic Coast Conference championship.

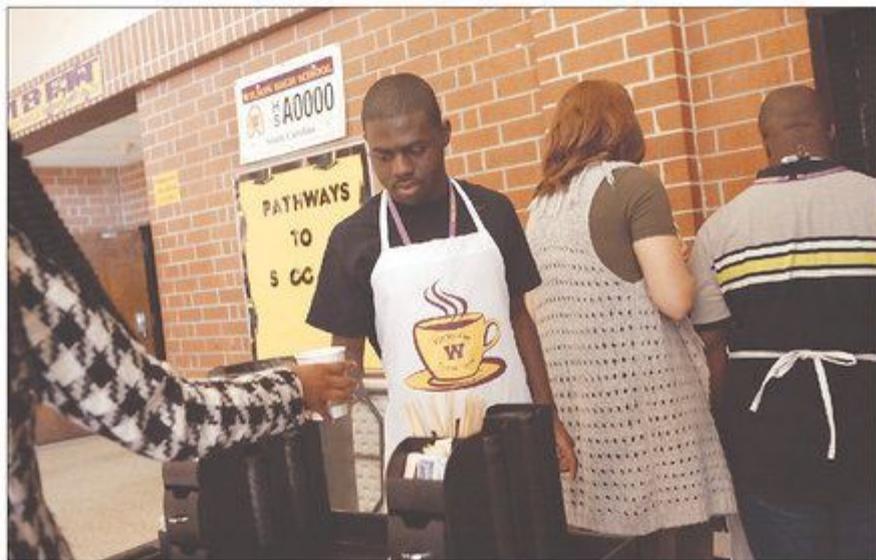
Ohio State was rated No. 2 in the playoff rankings going into the weekend, but did not play because it fell short of a berth in the Big Ten Conference championship game.

The Buckeyes are the first team to make the playoffs, which began in 2014, without winning a conference championship.



Each Monday, the Morning News features a good news story on a person, place or organization in the Pee Dee. If you have a suggestion for someone or something to profile, send it to news@scnw.com.

Fill My Cup



MEGAN MAY/MORNING NEWS

Rodney Jackson serves coffee to a fellow student during lunch Thursday at Wilson High School.

Coffee shop run by students in Wilson autism class is thriving

BY MEGAN MAY
Morning News
mmay@florencenews.com

FLORENCE — Business is booming at Wilson High

School. Since October, students from the self-contained autism class have been running a coffee shop, Fill My Cup, for the first week of

every month. The students sell coffee to their peers and teachers twice a day: once before school starts and again during lunch hours.

Rebekah Andrews, the autism class teacher, got the idea for the coffee shop at the beginning of the school year. To prepare students

See **CUP**, Page 3A

Symphony Guild's Holiday Homes Tour a success

BY MATTHEW ROBERTSON
Morning News
mrobertson@scnw.com



FLORENCE — The Florence Symphony Guild's sixth annual Holiday Homes Tour was an unqualified success, judging from the rate at which tickets at one

finished a remodel of the home and looked at this year's opportunity as a way to finish decorating for the holidays.

Decorations throughout the home were done by David Starks, with no specific theme, she said.

Entertainment at the home was provided by members of the Flor-

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